New Americans in Birmingham

A Snapshot of the Demographic and Economic Contributions of Immigrants in the Metropolitan Area

SPENDING POWER AND TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2014, foreign-born residents earned $1.1B. Given their income, this group contributed greatly to federal, state, and local taxes.\(^2\)

- $73.8M — Went to state and local taxes\(^3\)
- $213.2M — Went to federal taxes\(^4\)

Leaving them with more than $821.9M in remaining spending power.

This constituted 3.8% of the metro area's total spending power.\(^5\)
In 2014, foreign-born residents contributed $3B to the GDP of the Birmingham metro area.\(^6\)

**Entrepreneurship**

2,665 immigrants in Birmingham metro area are self-employed.

Their businesses generated $19.2M in business income in 2014.\(^7\)

11.2% of all immigrants are self-employed, compared to just 7.8% of all U.S.-born.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Businesses Owned, 2012</th>
<th>Sales Revenue, 2012</th>
<th>Number of Employees, 2012(^a)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Residents in the Metro Area</td>
<td>2,035</td>
<td>$351.8M</td>
<td>2,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Residents in the Metro Area</td>
<td>2,499</td>
<td>$796.5M</td>
<td>3,828</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2014, foreign-born residents had higher levels of education than U.S.-born citizens in Birmingham metro area. In 2014, 4,682 foreign-born students attended public schools in metro Birmingham.
13,241
Number of foreign-born residents who had naturalized as of 2014.

Among the 26,742 residents who were not citizens, 21.1%, or 5,650, were eligible for naturalization.

NATURALIZATION

POPULATION GROWTH

Immigrant population decrease: 45,320 → 39,983

Birmingham population: 1,131,070 → 1,141,073

* In 2011 the Alabama legislature passed HB 56, the most restrictive state bill on immigration in the country. Among other provisions, it required schools to check the legal status of students and police offers to arrest anyone who couldn’t produce a driver’s license. Some provisions of this bill were struck down by the US 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and later the Supreme Court blocked police from detaining people on the suspicion of being undocumented.
TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

1. Mexico ......................................................... 40.1%
2. El Salvador¹⁰ .................................................... 5.8%
3. Pakistan¹¹ ...................................................... 4.9%
4. Vietnam¹² ....................................................... 4.2%
5. China¹³ .......................................................... 3.9%

Other ............................................................ 41.1%

Want more information about this region? See our state report:
The Contributions of New Americans in Alabama
Endnotes

1 We define the Birmingham metropolitan area using the Office of Management and Budget definition of the Birmingham-Hoover, AL Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Unless otherwise specified, data comes from one-year sample of the 2014 American Community Survey and figures refer to the metro area of Birmingham.

2 State and local taxes include property, income, sales, and excise taxes levied by either the state of Alabama or by municipal governments.


5 Estimates are based on federal tax rates from the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, and state and local tax rates from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

6 These figures derive from our calculations based on immigrants’ share of wage income and self-employment income in the one-year ACS sample from 2014 and the statistics of GDP by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

7 The number of observations for foreign-born business owners is below 50.

8 The 2012 Survey of Business Owners, U.S. Census Bureau

9 The number of observations for different education levels is below 50.

10 Number of observations is below 50.

11 Number of observations is below 50.

12 Number of observations is below 50.

13 Number of observations is below 50.